

PRESS RELEASE

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KATHY COMES HOME



30 years to the day EastEnders was first broadcast, one of EastEnders true icons, Kathy Beale returned to the show in a LIVE scene in last night's episode in the UK, which will air in Australia on the 4th March on UKTV at 6.15pm.

Last seen in 2000 before returning to South Africa, viewers believed that Kathy was killed in a car crash. However when Kathy comes home to Walford later this year, viewers will learn where Kathy has been and why she has stayed away so long...

Played by Gillian Taylforth, Kathy appeared in the very first episode of EastEnders on the 19th February 1985. As one of the original cast, Gillian soon found herself at the heart of some of the soaps most memorable episodes, creating a character that has never been forgotten in EastEnders history. Storylines included her relationship and subsequent turbulent marriage to Phil Mitchell and the rape of Kathy by Wilmott Brown.

Kathy's return has been shrouded in secrecy. To keep her return under wraps the scenes were shot live on location to prevent her being seen prior to her episode transmitting.

Talking about her return to EastEnders, Gillian said "When Dominic approached me with his plan, I was so shocked I got into my car and burst into tears! 'Kathy' has always been so

close to my heart and it's absolutely wonderful to be returning to the show and reprising the role"

Dominic Treadwell-Collins, Executive Producer said "I have always made my feelings on Kathy Beale and Gillian Taylforth very clear – she is part of EastEnders history, mother to Ian and Ben and one of the most important and iconic television characters on British television. Six months ago, we set ourselves the challenge of bringing Kathy back to the Square in a credible way. And I believe we have succeeded. Viewers will have to keep watching to find out exactly why Kathy 'died', where she has been all these years and why she now wants to come home to Albert Square. This is only the beginning of one of the most earth-shattering storylines EastEnders has ever seen..."

Adam Woodyatt who plays Gillian's on screen son adds "I'm thrilled, I couldn't be happier. I've finally got my mum back! I've been keeping this secret for so long and now I just can't wait to work with her again."

EASTENDERS ANNIVERSARY WEEK SCHEDULE ON UKTV

Monday March 2 at 6.15pm: *EastEnders* (30')

Tuesday March 3 at 6.15pm: *EastEnders* (30')

Wednesday March 4 at 6.15pm: *EastEnders* (60')

Wednesday March 4 at 7.25pm: Flashback episode (30')

Thursday March 5 at 6.15pm: *EastEnders* (30')

-Ends-

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